

SISSINGHURST CRICKET CLUB

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A Note from the Chairman Re Junior Cricket at Sissinghurst Cricket Club

How nice it is to be writing this short note following the announcement that a vaccine has been developed that may well allow normal life to return by next spring, just in time for the 2021 cricket season.

I am a great believer that sport is vitally important in helping children grow as people, making new friends, learning to work as a team, realising that success only comes with hard work and, of course, developing physically. With all this in mind, our collective thoughts must now turn to the 2021 season.

Many of you will know that Tony Reader has decided to step down as Head of the Junior Section. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Tony for all that he has done for junior cricket at Sissinghurst CC. His dedication and enthusiasm have allowed the Club to develop a Junior Section that is the envy of many and to punch somewhat above its weight. He will be very much missed albeit I am sure he will still be around to offer help and encouragement.

I am delighted that Simon Latham, who has overseen the tremendous success of our Under 13's over the last four years, has agreed to take over from Tony. I have asked Simon to review all aspects of our Junior Section. This should allow us to update our Core Values and Mission Statement and ensure that all our Junior Members and their parents clearly understand what they can expect from participation within the various age groups.

Both Simon and I share the view that Sissinghurst CC should offer junior cricket for all (both boys and girls) whilst also doing our part in developing players capable of achieving both Area and County representation as well as playing Senior Cricket for the Club. Turn up for a Sunday training morning or a match day and you will see that there is always a happy atmosphere about the Club. To maintain this whilst achieving the results and area/county representation that we do is a juggling act to both manage and balance effectively. We may not get it right all the time, but the ambition is worthy of support.

I mentioned the girls. Pre Covid-19 the girls age groups were continuing to grow and thrive, and it is very much our intention to ensure that the section is re-instigated next season. Our goal is to create a section that is not focused on having a few girls playing with the boys but that can produce girls' teams capable of participating in all female cricket across Kent and Sussex.

Here comes the rub! The club's success is based on the incredible hard work of a fairly small group of volunteers who give up an enormous amount of their time to make the Junior Section what it is. The current team, under the oversight of Tony, are a highly experienced and dedicated team that have been instrumental in making Sissinghurst CC a destination for ambitious young cricketers.

The more people there are in this group, the more enjoyable it is for those involved and the better it is for the health of the Junior Section. With Tony stepping down and Simon taking over, the Junior Section very much needs to grow this band of volunteers if it is to maintain the momentum it now has.

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The Under 9's, 11's and potentially the Girls Sections need both lead and support coaches. These volunteers do not need to be ECB qualified (the Club will meet the cost of gaining ECB Level I and II coaching badges if required) but they do need to be prepared to meet the challenge of both the coaching and the less glamorous administration. So, if you would like to help, which I very much hope you will, please do get in touch with myself or Simon.

There will be more to follow but for the moment stay safe.

Peter Smith – Chairman Sissinghurst Cricket Club

November 2020